GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:127
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Use of Banned Pesticides
Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Dwivedi Shri Harish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many hazardous pesticides like chlorpyrifos, phorate, monocrotophos and neonicotinoid which are banned or restricted in the countries of origin are still being imported for being used in the agriculture sector adversely affecting the human health, soil, livestock and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the number of samples having pesticides and harmful chemicals above the permitted Maximum Residue Level (MRL) in fruits, vegetables, meat and spices is on the rise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government for judicious and proper use of pesticides including "Grow Safe Food" campaign and promoting the use of bio-fertilizers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
???? ??? ????? ?????? Â½Ã£Ã¢Â¨Ã£Ã£Ã¨ (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2015.

(a) & (b): The Registration Committee constituted under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after establishing their safety to human, animal and environmental health. Technical reviews are carried out from time to time and continued use of pesticides is permitted only if found safe. There are 66 pesticides which are banned / restricted in other countries of the world including USA and Europe but are permitted for use in India (Annexure - I). The reasons for permitting use of any pesticide in any country depends upon prevalence of pests, diseases and weeds situation in its agro-climatic conditions; prevalence of vector borne diseases and their control strategies; geography and other ecological factors and ecosystem of the country; socioeconomic conditions and availability of alternatives. A Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma has been constituted to review these 66 pesticides including chlorpyriphos, phorate and monocrotophos for their continued use in the country. The report of the committee is awaited. Apart from this, the committee had also been given the mandate to review neonicotinoids. The committee has submitted a Report with respect to neonicotinoid class of pesticides. The Committee has inter alia recommended that use of neonicotinoids may be allowed with instructions to not spray during flowering stage of the crop; inclusion of appropriate residue/toxicology parameters in registration requirement, and further studies on bio-efficacy and toxicity.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has started a central sector scheme, "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National level" under which samples of food commodities are collected and analysed for the presence of pesticide residues.
Contdâ€¦2/-

The year wise details of samples analysed are at Annexure II. The percentage samples of spices above MRL have decreased in the last years, whereas, for the same period, the percentage samples of vegetables above MRL have remained stagnant. No samples of Meat have been found above MRL in the last three years. The percentage samples of fruits above MRL have increased from 1.2% in 2012-13 to 1.8% in 2014-15.

The Central Government conducts Farmers Field Schools and other Human Resource Development programmes through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in States and UTs to sensitize various stakeholders regarding safe and judicious use of pesticides, etc. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message on the five essential principles of judicious pesticide use viz., application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application-is sought to be conveyed through hoardings, banners etc. in regional languages in Gram panchayats and rural areas. In addition, annual reports of "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National level" are shared with States to help them to take focussed action against pesticides misuse. Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), the Central

Government provides financial subsidies for use of liquid bio-fertilizers such as Rhizobium/Azospirillum etc.